

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T BEIRUT 4139

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PBOR, IS, LE
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OVERFLIGHTS AND RELATIONS WITH MILITIAS

REF: STATE 183890

1. WHEN LEONARD, HOWELL AND I SAW BOUTROS ON JULY 21, I MENTIONED PRESIDENT'S PROMISE OF DETAILS ABOUT ISRAELI COOPERATION WITH CHRISTIAN MILITIAS AND SAID IT WOULD BE TIMELY TO HAVE THEM WHILE LEONARD WAS HERE SO THAT HE COULD BE BETTER PREPARED DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH ISRAELIS. BOUTROS TOOK NOTE AND LATER IN EVENING JOHNNY ABDO, THE G-2, CALLED AND WE AGREED HE WOULD COME BY THE RESIDENCE AT 0900 MORNING JULY 22. ABDO APPEARED AND GAVE FOLLOWING RATHER SPARSE DETAILS WHICH DO NOT ADD UP TO MUCH.

2. CONTACTS: CHRISTIANS ARE IN DAILY TOUCH WITH ISRAELIS VIA TELEX AND SECURE VOICE RADIO. KATAEB, CHAMOUNISTS, GUARDIANS OF CEDARS AND TANZIM EACH HAVE OWN DIRECT
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TELEX AND RADIO LINKS. SCRAMBLER SYSTEMS ARE USED AND ONE PARTY CANNOT MONITOR THE OTHERS' TRANSMISSIONS. DURING THE RECENT EVENTS THERE HAVE BEEN FREQUENT MEETINGS BETWEEN ISRAELIS AND MILITIA LEADERS AT AQUA-MARINA AND JEBAIL. ACCORDING TO MILITIA SOURCES, GEN. EYTAN HIMSELF ATTENDED TWO OF THE MEETINGS. EYTAN WAS ALSO HERE DURING THE TWO-YEAR WAR AND IS GOOD FRIEND

OF DANY CHAMOUN AND BACHIR GEMAYEL. THERE ARE PERHAPS
10 ("NOT MORE THAN TWO PER PARTY") ISRAELI LIAISON
OFFICERS HERE, PLUS A FEW ISRAELIS TRAINING MILITIAS.

3. EQUIPMENT AND MUNITIONS: ISRAELIS HAVE FURNISHED
VARIETY OF WEAPONS AND MUNITIONS SINCE JULY 1. THESE
HAVE INCLUDED SIX 106 MM RECOILLESS RIFLES, AT LEAST
TWO 16-BARRELLED ROCKET LAUNCHERS MOUNTED ON JEEPS
(KATAEB REFERS TO THEM AS 78'S); AT LEAST SIX JEEPS
AND 50 TO 80 TONS OF AMMUNITION. THE 40-TON FIGURE
GIVEN ME BY THE PRESIDENT WAS NOT CORRECT. SOME
MUNITIONS ARRIVED ON JULY 20. DANY CHAMOUN ALSO
CLAIMS HE HAS BEEN PROMISED 50 SHERMAN TANKS, AND SAYS
THAT THE SEVEN MIRAGES WHICH OVERFLEW BEIRUT JULY 6
CAME AT HIS REQUEST.

4. ENCOURAGEMENT: BOTH THE KATAEB AND CHAMOUNISTS
SAY ISRAELIS HAVE TOLD THEMO KEEP QUIET BUT NOT TO
ENTER ANY DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SYRIANS
BEFORE AUGUST 15. ABDO INTERPRETS THIS AS MEANING
ISRAELIS THINK SYRIANS WILL EVACUATE EAST BEIRUT BY
THEN AND HOPE THEY WILL APPEAR TO BE DOING SO WITHOUT
HAVING ANYTHING IN RETURN, I.E., THEY WILL HAVE
EVACUATED AND CHRISTIANS AND ISRAELIS WILL HAVE WON.

5. COMMENT: ABOVE IS PRETTY THIN GRUEL AND I THINK
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ISRAELIS COULD WELL CONTEND THAT IT SHOWS THEY ARE
EXERCISING RESTRAINT, SINCE QUANTITIES OF ARMS ARE
PRETTY MODEST IN PRESENT LEBANESE SCALE OF ARMAMENT.
IT NEVERTHELESS IS EVIDENT THAT MILITIA LEADERS ARE
EITHER EXPECTING FURTHER ISRAELI SUPPORT, OR TRYING TO
GIVE IMPRESSION TO RANK AND FILE THAT IT IS COMING IN
ORDER KEEP UP MORALE. WE PROBABLY WILL NEVER KNOW
TRUTH ABOUT WHAT ISRAELIS ARE TELLING THEM, BECAUSE
NEITHER ISRAELIS NOR MILITIA LEADERS WILL LEVEL WITH US.
IN A SENSE, IT IS IRRELEVANT WHAT ISRAELIS ARE ACTUALLY
SAYING, BECAUSE THEY HAVE CREATED WIDESPREAD
IMPRESSION LOCALLY, AND REINFORCED IT BY SUCH STUNTS
AS THEIR OVERFLIGHTS, THAT THEY ARE INDEED PREPARED TO
COME TO THE RESCUE. WHATEVER THEIR REAL INTENTIONS,
THEY ARE LIKELY TO BECOME VICTIMS OF THEIR ACTIONS AND
TO FIND THEMSELVES OBLIGED TO INTERVENE MILITARILY. I
DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO VIEW THAT THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT,
BECAUSE I CREDIT THEM WITH BEING SMARTER THAN THAT,
BUT THIS IS WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO GET IF MILITIAS
HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT, AND THEY DO.
PARKER

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